European Rogaining Championships 2021 to take place in Estonia

On 4-5 September, the rogainers' elite will gather in Otepää to compete in a 24-hour championship rogaine. A six-hour open race will also be held. The organizers of the European Championships are MTÜ Seiklushunt and the Estonian Orienteering Federation. Estonia has hosted the 24-hour European Rogaining Championships before – in 2005, in Nõva, and in 2014, in Orava. In 2008, the World Rogaining Championships were held in Karula.

Rogaining and orienteering, in general, is gaining traction among Estonians. 'Approximately 15 rogaining competitions are annually held in Estonia, with the number of participants ranging from 200 to 800. The popularity of the sport has increased, as it is suitable for everyone – participants have to plan their own course. It has also been realized that rogaining is a good way to move in nature and discover new and exciting places. In addition, Estonians have won a significant number of medals from the Rogaining Championships in recent years, in all classes – this has helped to bring over endurance athletes from other fields to explore rogaining,' said Arvi Anton, Project Manager at Seiklushunt and Event Director of ERC 2021.

According to course planners Taavi Tatsi and Markus Puusepp, ERC 2021 terrain covers most of Otepää Nature Park – the largest landscape reserve in Estonia – created in order to preserve its spectacular views and habitats. 'Lots of hillocks and lakes of different sizes dominate the landscape. The network of roads and trails is generally good, connecting the technically more demanding areas of intricate contours and marshes. Many of the open hilltops and slopes provide stunning views. In contrast, running and visibility in early September can still be quite demanding both in the pristine and the young growth forests,' noted Puusepp, as he described what to expect.

'We are quite optimistic and excited about this year's European Championships. This is the first opportunity for the Seiklushunt team to organise something at this scale. At the same time, the turbulent situation around the world is proving to be quite disruptive when it comes to making big plans,' says Anton. Even so, in the case of ERC2021, participants within the competition center will be sufficiently dispersed, and if the adventurers are spread out all over the county during the competition, there is no need to fear the risk of infection. 'Adding to the excitement, multiple local defending champions from last year's European Rogaining Championships are expected to gather at the starting line, having the opportunity to once again prove their superiority, this time at home', added Anton.

Additional information on the competition can be found at: www.seiklushunt.ee/uritus/erc21
Registration: https://eventor.ee/